

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the non-final Office Action dated May 7, 2007. The specification and claims 102, 113 to 115, 125, 154, 158 to 165, 167 to 169 and 171 to 175 have been amended. No new matter has been added by such amendments. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any amounts due.

The Office Action rejected claims 102 to 126, 154, 158 to 165, 167 to 169 and 171 to 175 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, stating that such claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey that the inventors had possession of such subject matter when this application was filed. Specifically, the Office Action found no proper support for the “third electrode” as claimed. The Office Action noted that the specification describes a third electrode located upstream from a first electrode and a trailing electrode downstream from a second electrode. While the specification may have referred to an upstream electrode in one embodiment as a “third electrode,” Applicants have used to the term “third electrode” in the claims as a matter of clarity because the claims also include first and second electrodes. Applicants submit that the “downstream” element associated with the third electrode, as claimed, clarifies the difference between the “third electrode” expressly referenced in the specification and the “third electrode” set forth in the claims. Support for this matter is located at least in paragraph [0083] and Figures 4A to 4B of the application as filed.

Applicants have amended independent claims 102, 154, 169 and 171 to clarify the claim language, as supported by the specification. Specifically, amended claim 102, for example, recites “. . . a third electrode located at least partially downstream from the second electrode, the third electrode being configured to cause a generation of ions . . .”

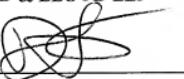
Applicants have made an earnest endeavor to place this application in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions

related to this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY


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Dated: August 7, 2007